

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
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NEWS RELEASE  
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**MIDDLEBORO MAN FOUND GUILTY OF MURDERING WOMAN IN HER HOME,  
THREATENING TO KILL A POLICE OFFICER**

**BROCKTON** – A Middleboro man has been found guilty of fatally shooting a woman in her own home with a rifle he stole from her husband's gun safe, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

A Plymouth County jury deliberated just two hours before finding Thomas Buttimer (DOB: 09/07/60 ) guilty of one count each of Murder, Armed Assault with Intent to Murder, Assault by Means of a Deadly Weapon and Possession of Ammunition. Buttimer was additionally found guilty of three counts of Illegal Possession of a Firearm and one count of Larceny of a Firearm. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Monday.

On July 12, 2013, at approximately 12:03 am, police responded to a 911 call from a man at 174 Highland Street who reported that his wife, Norma DesRoche, 65, had fallen down the stairs and was bleeding and non-responsive. Middleboro Police were first on scene and were inside the home gathering information when a Middleboro sergeant stepped out of the home to call for backup. At that same time, Buttimer appeared from a nearby wooded area and pointed a rifle at the sergeant. The Middleboro sergeant ordered Buttimer to drop the rifle several times before he fired and struck Buttimer.

DesRoche was taken to Tobey Hospital where she was pronounced dead a short time later. An autopsy later determined the cause of death to be a single gunshot wound to the DesRoche's chest.

A search of the home revealed that Buttimer used a shovel to break into a gun safe located in the basement. Three rifles had been removed, including the rifle that Buttimer used to fire the fatal shot at Mrs. DesRoche and point at the Middleboro sergeant. At the time police arrested Buttimer, he had re-loaded the rifle with one round of ammunition and had three rounds in his pockets at the ready.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Jessica Kenny and Josh Gedraitis and was investigated by State Police Detectives assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office and Middleboro Police.

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